

What is claimed is:

1. An accelerator pedal device comprising:

a belt fastening detector configured to detect fastening and unfastening states of a seat belt; and

5 a pedal reactive force enhancer configured to enhance reactive force against treading pressure on an accelerator pedal when an ignition switch is turned on while the seat belt is unfastened, based on a detecting operation of the belt fastening detector.

2. The accelerator pedal device according to claim 1, wherein the pedal
10 reactive force enhancer comprises a spring tension enhancing mechanism configured to enhance tension of a return spring being mounted to be connected between a pedal arm and a pedal support member to retain the pedal arm in an initial position.

3. The accelerator pedal device according to claim 2,
15 wherein the spring tension enhancing mechanism includes:
a lever being rotatably and pivotally supported on the pedal support member, on a lower end of which one end of the return spring is hooked; and
an actuator being operated based on the detecting operation of the belt
fastening detector so as to push an upper end of the lever and to enhance the
20 tension of the return spring.

4. The accelerator pedal device according to claim 3,
wherein the upper end of the lever contacts slidably with a cam portion
of a cam plate being disposed slidably on the pedal support member, and
the lever moves in a direction to enhance the tension of the spring by
25 pushing to move the cam plate in response to an operation of the actuator.

5. The accelerator pedal device according to claim 3, further comprising:

a damper mechanism configured to suppress a sudden returning operation of the lever.

6. The accelerator pedal device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an accelerator state detecting unit configured to detect a treading and a release of the accelerator pedal,

wherein the pedal reactive force enhancer continues to enhance the reactive force until a fastening state of the seat belt is detected by the belt fastening detector and a release of the accelerator pedal is detected by the accelerator state detecting unit.

7. An accelerator pedal device comprising:

belt fastening detecting means for detecting fastening and unfastening states of a seat belt; and

pedal reactive force enhancing means for enhancing reactive force against treading pressure on an accelerator pedal when an ignition switch is turned on while the seat belt is unfastened, based on a detecting operation of the belt fastening detecting means.

8. A method of controlling an accelerator pedal device, comprising:

detecting fastening and unfastening states of a seat belt; and

enhancing reactive force against treading pressure on an accelerator pedal when an ignition switch is turned on while the seat belt is unfastened, based on a result of the detecting step.